

Quality of Life – Enhanced by Facilities

By David Milligan, Director of Facilities Construction and Maintenance

Charlotte County facilities construction and maintenance department is the most visible department you will never see. We are a team dedicated to customer service, where other county departments are our direct customers and citizens are the ultimate recipients of our services. We design, construct, maintain and repair facilities that enrich the quality of life in Charlotte County.

Facilities construction and maintenance is most often recognized for impacting lives in positive ways through project management. The department plans, designs and constructs human services facilities, fire stations, libraries, and parks. Such facilities provide services and recreational opportunities directly associated with a high quality of life.

Recent projects illustrate the variety of work across the county that meets diverse needs. The Englewood Library expansion recently opened, with new rooms and the new special Archive. The project also included improved parking at the facility, park lighting and landscaping. At the same time, we resurfaced tennis courts at Tringali Park. In addition, eight boat ramps have had solar-powered LED lighting installed for boater convenience and safety. Decking was rebuilt at Lake Betty Park fishing docks.

At any point in time, we are managing multiple projects in different stages of development. Two new concession stands and restrooms are under construction at Harold Avenue Park, and a new restroom is under construction at Bayshore Live Oak Park. Renovations at Fire Station No. 6 will improve first-responders' efficiency. An extensive Historical Center renovation project is ready for construction bidding. Improvements designed to enhance access for disabled users will soon begin at several county facilities. Energy-efficient sports lighting is replacing older lighting technology at Harold Avenue and Harbour Heights Parks, which will improve light quality, reduce neighborhood glare and provide energy savings.

Our work includes both new construction and the maintenance and refurbishment of existing facilities. Design for renovation of Harbour Heights Park is underway—the revisions will enhance current facilities, add parking and enable greater year-round use. Renovation of the Anger Fishing Pier is in the final design and permitting phase. At Port Charlotte Beach Park, a new floating dock will serve small sailboats and kayaks, and make launching away from the motorboat ramp safer and more convenient. Upcoming renovation of Port Charlotte Beach Park fishing dock and boardwalks will also improve safety and usability.

Facilities construction and maintenance also supports all the county buildings where citizens conduct business and employees perform their work. Our repair and maintenance division receives over 50 work requests each week, which covers two million square feet of county floor space. Proper functioning of plumbing, air conditioning, electrical and other building systems directly influences a positive customer experience and effective work area. Our operations division ensures that facility support systems also invisibly contribute to a positive experience. Life and safety systems such as fire extinguishers, fire sprinklers, elevators and water backflow devices are regularly inspected. A detailed annual cycle governs mowing at 90 sites comprising over 500 acres. Custodial services are performed on daily or weekly cycles at 89 facilities including over 600 plumbing fixtures.

The mission of the Facilities Construction and Maintenance Department is to create and support facilities which contribute to a productive, safe and enriching environment. To that end, employees, residents and visitors of Charlotte County all benefit. Next time you use a County facility, imagine what goes on behind the scenes to provide the best customer experience possible.